

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

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CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UN, US, SF

SUBJECT: UN APARTHEID COMMITTEE: SOUTH AFRICAN TRACK AND
FIELD CHAMPIONSHIP

REF: STATE 96746 (NOTAL)

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF UN APARTHEID COMMITTEE PRESS STATE-
MENT CONCERNING US LETTER OF APRIL 27 ON SUBJECT:

QUOTE PRESS STATEMENT BY LESLIE O. HARRIMAN (NIGERIA),
CHAIRMAN OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE AGAINST APARTHEID

ON BEHALF OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE AGAINST APARTHEID, I
WISH TO COMMEND THE UNITED STATES AMATEUR ATHLETIC UNION
FOR DECLINING TO TAKE PART IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN TRACK AND
FIELD CHAMPIONSHIP ORGANIZED IN BLOEMFONTEIN, SOUTH AFRICA,
ON 2 TO 3 APRIL BY THE ALL-WHITE SOUTH AFRICAN AMATEUR
ATHLETIC UNION (SAAAU).

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IN A PRESS STATEMENT ON 23 MARCH 1976, THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

RECALLED THAT THE SAAAU HAD BEEN SUSPENDED BY THE INTERNATIONAL ATHLETIC FEDERATION BECAUSE OF ITS FAILURE TO ADHERE TO THE OLYMPIC PRINCIPLE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION. THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE REQUESTED ALL GOVERNMENTS AND ORGANIZATIONS TO TAKE ACTION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 3411 (XXX), TO DISSUADE ATHLETES FROM THEIR COUNTRIES FROM PARTICIPATING IN THE CHAMPIONSHIP IN BLOEMFONTEIN.

IN A LETTER DATED 27 APRIL 1976, ADDRESSED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE, H.E. MR. WILLIAM W. SCRANTON, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS, STATED:

"THE UNITED STATES AMATEUR ATHLETIC UNION (AAU) HAS INFORMED US THAT BECAUSE OF SOUTH AFRICA'S POLICY OF APARTHEID, THE AAU DID NOT ISSUE PERMITS FOR ANY UNITED STATES ATHLETES TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS TRACK MEET. THERE WERE THEREFORE, NO AAU-SPONSORED ATHLETES COMPETING IN THIS CHAMPIONSHIP. AS A MATTER OF POLICY, THE AAU WILL NOT SPONSOR PARTICIPATION OF UNITED STATES ATHLETES COMPETING IN THE NINE MAJOR OLYMPIC SPORTS FIELDS IN SPORTING EVENTS HELD IN SOUTH AFRICA, AS LONG AS SOUTH AFRICA MAINTAINS ITS APARTHEID POLICY."UNQUOTE
BENNETT

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